REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 6, and 11-13 are independent. Claim 1 has been amended to correct a minor informality.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which the Applicants are entitled.

II. DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

Claims 1-13 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obvious-type double patenting as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,379,655 to Koyabu, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Koyabu")

Applicants respectfully submit herewith a terminal disclaimer and appropriate fee, thereby obviating the double patenting rejection.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,

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